



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

April, 30, 2007

Allegheny National Forest
Attn: Forest Plan Revision Comments
PO Box 36
Warren, PA 16365

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement to Accompany the Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan, Allegheny National Forest, Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren Counties, PA May 2006 CEQ #20070117

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the above referenced project and provides the following comments.

EPA continues to have environmental concerns with the potential for adverse impacts from oil and gas development to water quality and wildlife resources. We encourage the Forest Service to continue to work closely with the permitting agencies and state environmental agencies as they issue drilling permits to minimize impacts to water quality, especially from road construction, disturbance and fragmentation of habitat and implement project monitoring. We would expect that the site specific NEPA analyses will be more detailed and address cumulative impacts forest-wide.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Okorn at (215)814-3330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "William Arguto", is positioned above the typed name.

William Arguto,
NEPA Team Leader

